Seeing the Invisible

SEEING THE INVISIBLE.

Jn. 14:9 He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.

My intention of speaking to the topic, "The dimen-/ sions of the soul." But it came to me that I had done so not long ago.

The mind works strangely. DeAblang.

Another queer working of the mind. My asking the druggist which way to return home, via Sausalito or via Vallejo? His getting provoked because immediately afterwad He heard me tell Sam that I was going Montecello because I wished two hours for reading and thinking!

A careful analysis of my state of mind with reference to my announced subject concerning the soul led me to conclude that I had chosen it in reaction to reflection on the fact that we are so inclined to view life in such a matter-of/ fact and prosaic way that we often forget the invisible realities back of the manifestations of life as we contact them from day to day.

Looking in a jeweler's window at the diamond sale. I reflected, "Well, what are they anyway but crystallized carbon which have become of great value because of their scarcity. Then I observed the many faces intent on looking at the stones. All expressionless, coldly calculating, perhaps their possible genuineness and their so-called bargain prices.

But one face was different, that of a young man who revealed in his countenance a number of emotions that could not be held down. I wondered what was the matter with him, when there flashed into my mind a certain other face that was my previlege once to witness over fifteen years ago, when a diamond ring was slipped on her finger. Not a word was said but the very soul of that girl arose to her countenance as she gazed upon that diamond, as tho she were seeing in it some invisible treasure, and so she was, for to her that stone was a sacrament and a symbol o her life's happiness.

No man is the whole of himself until he has developed this faculty of seeing more than the prosaic in life, of seeing the music and the poetry and the harmony and the beauty of life as well. What would life be witho imagination and romance?

Have we not over-developed our practical side of life? Have we not neglected our responsiveness to the invisivle realities of life which are the healing, cleansing redeeming qualiti

In my sermon on the soul I pointed out that the soul has three dimensions- length, breadth and heigth. The soul likewise can see in three directions. It can look down, it can look out, and it can look up. Down on things and animals beneath him, down on the sordid and vile things of human life: out, upon a level with his fellows in comradship with those of his own kind: and up at the Something and Somebody which represents the invisible realities and which he can adore and worship and reverence.

Today we do not emphasize the looking upward. It seems as tho the world demands that we look down in order to discover truth, and out to experience life in its fulness.

Down- thru acquaintance with evil and vice and crime and corruption and lust, thru greed we learn what is good and true! Thru greed and exploitation and graft and war we grow rich and strong and substantial

Out in association with our fellow men, thru co-operati and service we realize our summum bonum, our supreme happiness and good.

But in spite of it all people will go to church! We often talk about why people do not go to church, but have you ever considered why people go to church?

The theatres and amusements of the world are far more attractive than church services. Books and lectures and radio programs and operas and schools can give you far more information and knowledge than the average church service, and yet some people will keep on going to church. Why?

Man, just because he is man, must look up- that is why. Man's soul cannot rest satisfied until he has reached up to God. And why must man reach up to God?

Who are the men that are collapsing today? that are going to pieces because of some weakness of character or because modern cirmumstances are too much for them?

Let me tell you the fable of the spider, which once lived at the top of a large barn. He let down a single thread and near the floor built humself a great web. The he caught many flies, grew fat and big. One day he noticed that single thread coming down from the ceiling to the

center of his web and thot it was useless and so he cut it. Then his whole web house collapsed.

Many men lower themselves to just the practical things and the expediencies of life, amass great riches and grow fat and sleek, then they cut loose the one thread that holds them to the invisible, to the ideal, to the divine na and they soon go to pieces. Strong nations have disappeared in like manner. Read history and see for yourself.

There are many churches and they can all be criticized for this, that and the other shortcoming. They have creeds and beliefs that cause them to fight one another, etc. But they are all growing, nevertheless, because they all, in spite of their weaknesses, are trying to lift man up to God

And is not the very power of Christ in the world just the fact that in him men see the Heavenly Father? The man Jesus reveals God.

Likewise a soul that sees upward is not overcome by the apparent domination of evil in the world. He sees thru it all and holds on to the ideal.

To some our government is controlled by grafters, our business is an exploitation of the public, our social life is all sham, our churches are full of hyproctites, cant and superstition, etc. They become hard-boiled, cynical and lose all faith in their fellow men. Seeing only down and out they shrivel their souls until no soul is left. They can no longer respond to the finer and higher things of life, they can no longer see God in Christ, in their fellow men, in human institutions, in governments.

And because of this fact there is ever the need of presenting heaven's invitation to look up. The Gospel is anything but a worn-out belief. The world's greatest need t today is such a presentation of Jesus Christ that men in all walks of life everywhere can be made to see in Him God the Father.